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# **News Release**

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## **3 plead guilty to distributing drugs**

Three men have recently pleaded guilty in federal court to distributing drugs in the Twin Cities.

On Aug. 14, Jesus Garcia-Barrera, 38, St. Paul, pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine. A second defendant, Eloy Giovanni Rivera-Bustos, 29, St. Paul, pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy on Aug. 11. Both defendants, who were indicted on June 16, entered their pleas in Minneapolis before United States District Court Judge Patrick Schiltz.

According to their respective plea agreements, they admit that from May 1, 2008, to May 27, 2008, they conspired with each other and others to possess with intent to distribute and to distribute approximately 1,100 grams of a substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine.

According to a Federal Bureau of Investigation affidavit, authorities learned in 2008 that Garcia-Barrera was selling large amounts of crystal methamphetamine in St. Paul. Between May 7 and May 13, police made three separate "controlled purchases" of methamphetamine. The first purchase was made from Garcia-Barrera, and during the other two purchases, Garcia-Barrera acted as the driver and Rivera-Bustos provided the drug.

Police executed a search warrant of Garcia-Barrera's St. Paul residence on May 27, and recovered approximately 2 1/4 pounds of methamphetamine and arrested Garcia-Barrera. Later that day, police also executed a search warrant of Rivera-Bustos's residence, and recovered approximately \$13,000 in cash, along with drug packaging materials, as well as arresting Rivera-Bustos.

Both men face a potential maximum penalty of life in prison. Judge Schiltz will determine their sentences on a future date. This case is the result of an investigation by the FBI, the Dakota County Drug Task Force and the St. Paul Police Department, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Christian S. Wilton.

In a second unrelated case, a 64-year-old Minneapolis man pleaded guilty yesterday to one count of possession with intent to distribute cocaine. Israel Roque-Lopez, who was charged on June 16, entered his plea Aug. 14 in Minneapolis before Judge Schiltz.

According to Roque-Lopez's plea agreement, on May 27, 2008, he knowingly and intentionally possess with intent to distribute 500 or more grams of a substance containing a detectable amount of cocaine.

Roque-Lopez faces a potential maximum penalty of 40 years in prison. Judge Schiltz will determine his sentence on a future date. This case is the result of an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas M. Hollenhorst.